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Commission on the Status of Women
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Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Philippines:* draft resolution

Integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/212 of 20 December 2004, 59/231 of 22 December 2004, 59/232 of 22 December 2004 and 59/279 of 28 January 2005,

Taking into account the tsunami disaster that struck the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia regions on 26 December 2004, resulting in thousands of deaths and millions of homeless persons,

Recognizing that women and children have been the most affected by the tsunami disaster,

Noting that women have taken on the role of caring for survivors and maintaining family and community,

Concerned that violence, including sexual abuse and sexual and other gender-based violence, continues to be deliberately directed against women and girls, in many emergency situations, including in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster,

Reaffirming the conviction contained in the Beijing Declaration[1] to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

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mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women,

Recalling the commitments made concerning women and girls affected by natural disasters, displacement and other such emergencies in the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3]

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004 on the review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

Deeply concerned that existing post-disaster relief, recovery and rehabilitation efforts, including in the recent tsunami disaster, do not address the gender dimensions of the situation,

1. *Urges* Governments, United Nations entities and international humanitarian relief organizations to integrate a gender perspective as well as engage women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly in the post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation stage;

2. *Strongly calls* upon Governments and other relevant bodies to attend promptly to the basic necessities, such as food, clean water and shelter, as well as health care and psychosocial support, taking into account the particular needs of women and girls;

3. *Underlines* the need to address the issues of livelihood, security, land tenure and housing since they pose major challenges to women, particularly widows, single-headed households and women who have lost all family members;

4. *Also underlines* the need to give attention to the needs of marginalized groups of women, including girls, older women and women with disabilities;

5. *Stresses* the need to utilize the expertise, knowledge and networks of women to promote institutional change towards gender equality and social justice in disaster situations, including local expertise, experience and knowledge for capacity-building in disaster situations;

6. *Strongly urges* Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant bodies to provide the necessary measures to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and other forms of violence;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to involve women in decision-making in disaster situations, including in community-level welfare centres for the displaced, to ensure that human rights abuses are minimized;

8. *Calls upon* all those concerned with relief, rehabilitation and recovery of victims to include gender training in their needs assessment and community and family-based interventions;

9. *Encourages* the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and civil society involved in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts to implement and monitor community-based participatory approaches so that women can take an

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

active and equal role in all stages and at all levels of camp management, recovery planning and reconstruction;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that in coordinating the relief and recovery processes, the United Nations system, regional organizations, donor countries and affected States contribute to sensitizing further all reconstruction programmes to the special needs of women and girls;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his reports to the General Assembly the gender dimensions of relief, rehabilitation and recovery efforts coordinated by the United Nations in situations of natural disasters, including the recent tsunami disaster.